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Library Acquires Dozens of Rare New Holdings

End-of-fiscal year purchases added gems to collections across the Library.

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

A house of treasures. The Library is often spoken of that way, as an almost magical place where just about everyone – from scholars to schoolchildren – can encounter something new. Last fall, dozens of stunning new acquisitions, purchased with special end-of-fiscal-year funds, made the Library's treasure chest even grander.

Among the purchases: a rare 1765 road map detailing the route from Boston to Albany, New York; images of 19th-century Egypt by two distinguished photographers of the Islamic world; a 149-volume multimedia encyclopedia of Kunqu, one of oldest forms of Chinese opera; and screen-

plays and scripts for five MGM film musicals, including "The Wizard of Oz" and "Singin' in the Rain."

And the list goes on. In all, 87 new items or collections joined the Library's holdings at the end of fiscal 2021.

"The end-of-year acquisitions process brought significant collections acquisitions to all of our collecting divisions this year," Robin Dale, deputy librarian for library and collections services, said. "The funding may vary from year to year, but with the help of our recommending officers, exceptional items that will support Congress, exemplify 'Americana' through its broadest lens

ACQUISITIONS, CONTINUED ON 7

NOTICES

REMINDER: REPORT COVID SYMPTOMS, EXPOSURE

All Library employees, including those working remotely, who have [experienced symptoms of COVID-19](#), received a positive COVID test result or had close contact with someone with COVID-19 are required to send a message to their supervisors and copy the Health Services Division (HSD) at HSD-COVID-check-in@loc.gov.

The email to HSD should include the employee's name in the subject line and a reachable email address and telephone number in the body of the message. HSD will follow up to ensure that affected employees remain off-site for the appropriate amount of time and confirm that contact tracing is not necessary.

LC LABS OPEN HOUSE

Feb. 3, 11 a.m.

[Online](#)

All Library staff are invited to join the Office of the Chief Information Officer's LC Labs team for a virtual open house to learn more about the exciting work the team has planned for this year.

The team will discuss [experiments](#) including the future of its Citizen DJ project, progress on "Computing Cultural Heritage in the Cloud" and findings from the "Humans in the Loop" initiative on accessing digital collections.

The open house will include the opportunity for staff to ask questions. When it's time, use passcode 239696 to join the event on [Zoom](#).

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GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

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GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Feb. 11 Gazette is Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

'America Works,' Season Three, Kicks Off

BY MARIA PEÑA

The American Folklife Center (AFC) launched the much-awaited third season of "America Works" last week. The podcast series celebrates the diversity, resilience and creativity of American workers in the face of economic uncertainty. The new season includes riveting stories from a teacher and workers at a circus, a meat plant, a vineyard and a now-closed Boeing factory.

Part of AFC's ongoing [Occupational Folklife Project](#), the eight-episode series introduces listeners to a range of voices and perspectives within the changing American workforce. Each 10-minute episode is based on a longer interview from the Occupational Folklife Project and is available on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher and loc.gov/podcasts. Episodes will be released each Thursday through March 10.

"The eloquence, optimism and insights of American workers never fail to impress me," Nancy Groce of AFC said. "Especially during these trying times, I feel honored to help ensure that their stories become part of our national record by being documented and archived here at the Library." Groce hosts "America Works."

The third season of the podcast includes:

Episode 1: Mario Cervantes, a Hispanic former skilled factory worker for Boeing aircraft in Wichita, Kansas, discusses his family's long ties to the company and his disappointment that the aviation giant, a community mainstay for over eight decades, shut down its Wichita operations.

Episode 2: Roberta Washington, an African American architect based in New York City, discusses designing public works projects, including the African Burial Ground Interpretive Center for the National Park Service. She also cites the challenges of entering a field that was



"America Works" brings to light stories of the challenges and joys associated with professions across the country.

dominated by white men.

Episode 3: Henrietta Ivey, a home health care professional in Detroit, talks about her pride in helping clients stay in their homes safely and with comfort and dignity. She says home health care professionals often encounter hurtful comments, lack of respect and challenging work environments.

Episode 4: Delores Fortuna, a professional potter and owner of Fortuna Pottery in Galena, Illinois, explains how she discovered her love for pottery as a college student and later helped establish annual "pottery tours" to introduce the public to local artisans.

Episode 5: Kira Fobbs, an elementary school teacher in Madison, Wisconsin, discusses how her multiethnic heritage helped shape her career teaching third and fourth graders and special education students. She explains that she pursued a law degree to "help change the world" but instead became a teacher to change the culture.

Episode 6: Thomas Sink, a retired circus performer better known as "Popcorn the Circus Comic" of Mead, Oklahoma, spent more than

three decades entertaining audiences in the Midwest. Despite the high turnover and other challenges that come with the job, Popcorn points out he remained a clown because "it's a neat life ... and I loved the audiences."

Episode 7: William (Bill) Hatch, a winery worker and owner of Zephaniah Farm Vineyard in Leesburg, Virginia, transformed his multigenerational family dairy and cattle farm into a successful winery. He explains that he started with just over a thousand vines and is now one of more than 280 growers in Virginia. Clients never complained his milk, he says, but they love his wine.

Episode 8: Komla "Sam" Ewu, a meatpacking plant worker in Beardstown, Illinois, left a prestigious but unprofitable career as an English teacher in his native Togo and migrated to the U.S. in 2011 after winning a visa lottery. Ewu says he's grateful because, while he's "just a meat cutter" performing a grueling job, he is pursuing his American dream and working hard to bring his family to the states.

[More information.](#) ■

Annual Records Review and Cleanup

The Library's annual records review and cleanup (ARRC) will take place in February this year in an adapted form to suit our current circumstances. All staff are encouraged to participate, doing what they can where they are.

This annual event is a team effort. Staff of the Records Management Division will support records coordinators and liaisons and all Library staff by being available for virtual staff briefings and by offering weekly virtual ARRC open houses on Skype.

The open houses are available to all staff. Staff are welcome to attend any of the sessions listed below for any amount of time and ask any questions or raise any concerns about the ARRC, file plans, the federal government's transition to a fully electronic environment by Dec. 31 or any other records-related issues. Division staff are also happy to attend virtual staff meetings upon request.

Click on any of the dates and times below to participate in a virtual open house through Skype. Use a browser other than Firefox to access the links.

[Feb. 1, 11 a.m. to noon](#)

[Feb. 10, 11 a.m. to noon](#)

[Feb. 15, 2 to 3 p.m.](#)

[Feb. 24, 2 to 3 p.m.](#)

Over the course of the cleanup, all Library staff will be expected to review and cull:

- Personal papers: materials belonging to Library staff that are not used to document the Library's activities. Examples include personal correspondence, lists, reminders and calendars.
- Nonrecord materials: informational materials that do not meet the definition of records. Examples include, but are not limited to, extra copies of documents kept only for reference and stocks of publications.

- Transitory records: records of short-term (180 days or fewer) interest that have minimal or no documentary or evidential value, such as emails setting up meetings or answering quick questions among staff that provide no substantive information.

Records coordinators and liaisons will focus on:

- Updating file plans for their offices.
- Ensuring that all records in their offices are covered by the Library of Congress Records Schedule.
- Discussing any questions with the Records Management Division, as necessary.

For more information, contact your records coordinator or liaison or the division at records@loc.gov.

Visit the [Records Management webpage](#) for the ARRC Quick Guide, a list of records coordinators and liaisons and other helpful records management information. ■

Mandatory Records Management Awareness Training

The Records Management Basic Awareness 2022 training course is now available through [LOC Learn](#). All Library staff, as well as contractors, interns and volunteers who handle Library records, are required to take the course by Sept. 9. It should take about one hour to complete.

Under Library of Congress Regulation (LCR) 5-810, "Records Management," each year all Library personnel are required to complete the course again on a similar schedule. LCR 5-810 also requires all new Library personnel to complete the course within 30 days of their start date.

The course helps staff understand their records management responsibilities, including:

- How to distinguish between federal records and nonrecords and treat them accordingly.
- How long to keep records according to the official instructions authorized by the National Archives and Records Administration.
- How to distinguish between temporary and permanent records.
- How to file, maintain and dispose of records properly.

The course is presented using audio narration, and it is necessary

to have headphones or computer speakers to listen. Closed captioning is provided, and an accessible version is also available for staff who use screen-reader assistive technology. The link to the accessible version can be found on the course overview page.

For questions about the content of the course, contact the Records Management Division at records@loc.gov. For more information about records management, visit the division's [intranet site](#). For technical assistance in accessing the course, submit a request through [AskHCD](#). ■

**Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at
www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/**



Shawn Miller

John Haskell

John Haskell is retiring this month as director of the John W. Kluge Center.

Tell us about your background.

I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and after high school headed to Davidson College and then graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I received a Ph.D. in American politics.

I started out as a political science professor, serving on the faculty at Drake University for 10 years. On a sabbatical in the 1990s, I worked on Capitol Hill and got hooked on D.C. After a little more time in Iowa, interspersed with a stint writing a book on direct democracy here, I came back for good in 2000 to work at the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University.

What first brought you to the Library?

Working at the institute brought me into regular contact with congressional staff and members of Congress. In so doing, I got to know many Congressional Research Service (CRS) experts and was so intrigued by what they do that I jumped at the chance to work

there. What an amazing institution CRS is, with hundreds of people dedicated to providing authoritative policy guidance to Congress. I served as head of the Government and Finance Research Division from 2013 to 2016. It was an honor to be a part of everything CRS does.

What inspired you to take the position of Kluge Center director?

I had been aware of the Kluge Center while at CRS, arranging with the then-director to have some scholars interact with CRS experts. But what really got my attention was the focus at Kluge, under Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden's leadership, on bringing deep scholarly context and perspective to bear on the challenges we all face in the 21st century. As a person who had spent his entire career trying to author and promote relevant scholarship, the opportunity was too good to pass up.

What achievements as director are you most proud of?

In broad terms, it is tremendously gratifying to play a part in rewarding great scholars who are making a difference with an opportunity to pursue their research at

the Library. More specifically, I believe the Kluge Center's work has become integrated more with other parts of the Library – educational outreach, congressional relations, the digital effort, the book festival, the Law Library and so on – which serves to amplify our collective voice.

What are some standout moments from your time as director?

The Kluge Prize galas with Drew Gilpin Faust and Danielle Allen are hard to beat, especially getting to know those two incredible women. The Library benefited so much from Allen's work with us on the online public events series she developed, "Our Common Purpose: A Campaign for Civic Strength at the Library of Congress."

Getting to know the many and diverse scholars in residence over the years is very special, too. Unlike in academic departments, scholars in different disciplines share ideas every day at Kluge. It's an intellectually energizing environment.

What will you do next?

Figure out what to do next. And stay involved with the Library and other great institutions here in D.C. ■

ARMENIAN TREASURES ON DISPLAY



Araksya Kocharyan

Alen Simonyan (from left), president of the National Assembly of Armenia, and assembly members Maria Karapetyan and Hayk Konjoryan view Armenian treasures in the reading room of the African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED) on Jan. 19. The trio visited with a delegation to learn about AMED's collections and donate books.

OBITUARY



Jimmy Haritos

Jimmy Chryst Haritos passed away on Dec. 20 after a long illness, surrounded by his closest friends and family. He retired from the Library in 2004 following a career of more than 20 years.

Haritos was born Dec. 23, 1944, in New Orleans to the late Arthur and Delia Ida Haritos. He began his federal career in 1966 when he enlisted in the Naval Reserves, serving five years of active duty in positions including legal yeoman, administrative officer and flag (admiral) writer, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. Haritos retired

from the Reserves in 1995 after achieving the rank of chief petty officer in naval intelligence. The Navy awarded him Sailor of the Year in 1985.

Haritos started at the Library in 1968, then transferred to the National Park Service in 1971, where he worked for 12 years. He returned to the Library in 1983 as an administrative officer in the Buildings Management Office.

Haritos subsequently held several other positions, and he carried out assignments including overseeing a Main Reading Room survey that documented patron research and the setup of a 1993 Vatican Library exhibit. Later, he escorted the priceless volumes back to Rome.

Haritos concluded his federal career in 2004 in the Public Programs Office of Integrated Support Services, where he planned and coordinated many Library events sponsored by members of Congress. He also volunteered as an interviewer for the Veterans History Project.

Haritos' devotion to the Navy

never ended. Upon retirement, he volunteered with the Chief Petty Officers Association of Andrews Air Force Base and Naval District Washington. He trained future Navy chiefs on marching, protocol and etiquette, often beginning before dawn. He also sponsored and mentored many selectees.

In addition, he briefly worked as a ticket agent for United Airlines and served as a host on a cruise ship. Haritos was an avid theater lover and performed in many shows in Louisiana and Virginia.

He leaves a sister, Sandra (Tarratus) Schulte of Westwego, Louisiana, and six nieces and nephews. Another sister, the late Shirley (Arnette) Boos, and a brother, Arthur Haritos, predeceased him. Haritos also leaves his close friends Theodore Ringelheim, Mauricio Reyes and Al Tyas, a cataloging technician for the U.S. Arts, Sciences and Humanities Division at the Library.

Haritos' celebration of life will take place at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. His resting place is in Arlington National Cemetery. ■

NEWS

Volunteers Sought to Renew Passports Online

The State Department is launching an online portal for eligible customers to renew U.S. passports online. To improve the portal, the department is recruiting federal employees and contractors and their friends and family to provide feedback through a pilot program.

To participate, customers must live in the U.S. and have a U.S. passport. Requirements include:

- A customer's most recent passport is or was valid for 10 years. The passport can be expired.
- The passport was issued more than nine years ago (2013) but fewer than 15.
- The customer has the undamaged passport in hand.

- No changes have been made to a customer's name, gender or any other personal information.
- The customer has not traveled internationally within three weeks of the date of renewal.
- The customer can upload a digital (jpeg) photo.
- The customer can pay by credit or debit card or Automated Clearing House transfer from a bank account.

Only applications for regular (tourist) passports are eligible. Special issuance (diplomatic, official) passports are not eligible, nor are passport cards or applications from children under 16.

Complete [this form](#) on a personal device to preregister. The State Department will send a confirmation email with instructions.

Questions? Send an email to pptmandi@state.gov. ■

HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?

The Office of the Chief Information Officer's service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact ocioservicedesk@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727.

ACQUISITIONS, CONTINUED FROM 1

and further extend our research mission through electronic resources are always identified.”

For years, Ann Brener of the Hebrew Section wanted to acquire the 1525 second edition of *Biblia Rabbinica*. “It is without question one of the milestones of printing history,” she said.

Daniel Bomberg, the renowned Hebrew printer of Venice, produced the edition, significant for rendering in print, for the first time, an authoritative version of the Masorah, rabbinic traditions gathered over centuries to ensure the sacred text of the Hebrew Bible would be maintained correctly. The printed first edition of *Biblia Rabbinica* was widely condemned for inaccuracies.

“I began trying all the usual avenues to buy a copy,” Brener said. Unsurprisingly, the 1525 edition is extremely rare. But Brener finally tracked down an authentic copy from a vendor in Canada, and end-of-year funds enabled the purchase.

For Brener, the wait was worth it. The purchased edition is, she said, “the most perfect copy ever: complete, clean and beautifully bound!”

Although also rare, a Serial and Government Publications Division’s end-of-year purchase connects to a completely different world. Georgia Higley of the division recommended buying three early issues of the legendary Superman comic: No. 2 (1939), No. 12 (1941) and No. 16 (1942).

“All three issues have striking covers with the man of steel prominently displayed in bright colors,” Higley said.

Each also has something unique about it, she added. Issue No. 2’s cover features a hand-drawn Superman logo by the comic’s co-creator, Joe Shuster. Issue No. 12’s patriotic cover by artist Fred Wray is the first of many to laud American servicemen. And issue No. 16 is the first to have Lois Lane and Clark Kent together on the cover.



The Law Library acquired a rare and beautifully illustrated 15th-century manuscript of “L’Arbre des Batailles” by French author Honorat Bovet.

The three issues fill in gaps in the Library’s collection and inch Serials closer to its goal of acquiring a complete set of originals of the first 20 Superman issues, Megan Halsband of the division said.

Combined with others, these acquisitions contributed to making fiscal 2021 “quite a banner year” for end-of-year purchases, in the words of Mary Russell of the Special Collections Directorate. But end-of-year acquisitions as such are not out of the ordinary – they’ve been part of the acquisitions workflow for many years.

Toward the third quarter of each fiscal year, library administrators review how much funding allocated to the Library for that year cannot be spent for its original purpose by year’s end.

Depending on the type of funds involved, the Library may have to request permission from Congress to repurpose them. While that process unfolds, recommending officers – staff who propose materials for the Library to collect – compile recommendations following certain parameters. This year, for the first time, they submitted them in a new system for requesting acquisitions.

“We try to focus on unique and historically important big-ticket items that we wouldn’t otherwise be able to acquire,” Russell said.

Division chiefs rank staff recommendations in order of priority, then relay them to an end-of-year planning team made up of senior Library Collections and Services Group administrators. The team reviews the recommendations and ranks items. Next, the list goes to Mark Sweetney, principal deputy Librarian of Congress, and Dale for further review and potential adjustment.

At this point, an end-of-year operations team composed of other Library units also gets involved. The Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate begins coordinating each potential purchase, including communicating with vendors, confirming any agreements or licensing required and preparing purchase orders.

At the same time, the Office of the General Counsel reviews selections for legal issues, and the Preservation Directorate may be asked to weigh in on whether an item will require significant treatment once purchased. The

ACQUISITIONS, CONTINUED ON 8

ACQUISITIONS, CONTINUED FROM 7

Financial Services Directorate and the Integrated Library System Program Office also play a role.

"It's all to choreograph this very careful dance so that we have all of these wonderful things lined up for purchase on short notice in compliance with fiscal and legal parameters," Russell said. Despite the stress, the operation is worthwhile, she added, "because of the amazing things we can acquire for the national collection."

Purchases begin as money is released, but things sometimes come down to the wire. All monies must be spent by midnight on Sept. 30, the final day of the fiscal year.

"This year, thanks to excellent cooperation and coordination, we were able to accomplish our mission a couple of days early," Russell said.

Among the many wonderful things acquired last fall is a 15th-century manuscript of "L'Arbre des Batailles" ("The Tree of Battles") by the French author Honorat Bovet, purchased by the Law Library.

"'L'Arbre des Batailles' is a great example of a manuscript that is too impressive to walk away from," Nathan Dorn, curator of rare law books, said.

Bovet wrote "L'Arbre des Batailles" as a guidebook for knights, heralds and men-at-arms who engaged in combat and needed a reference work for their endeavors. The book became very popular and was heavily translated and adapted in other works.

"It forms a fascinating early chapter in the development of international laws of war," Dorn said.

But its value extends beyond that. "In addition to being an extraordinary document, it is a beautiful manuscript," he said of the 152 parchment folios featuring artwork visualizing the place of combat in the world of human experience and the cosmos.

Yet another gorgeous acquisi-



A page from the 1525 second edition of *Biblia Rabbinica*.



Photos by Shawn Miller

Surrealist Joan Miró created a decorative box to house his "Makemono" scroll.

tion is a 32-foot-long illustrated scroll by modern surrealist Joan Miró, selected by the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

The Catalan artist partnered with French lithographer Aimé Maeght to create the scroll, which he titled "Makemono" and modeled on East Asian calligraphic scrolls that take viewers on a narrative journey. Miró

filled the "Makemono" with the biomorphic characters that became his trademark in the 20th century.

To house the scroll, he created a hand-carved, painted and varnished wooden box, acquired with the scroll and also beautiful.

The purchase complements holdings by Miró in the Library's recently donated Aramont Library, rare book curator Stephanie Stillo said. The Aramont consists of literary first editions, illustrated books and "livres d'artiste" (books by artists) by some of the most important modern artists of the 20th century, including nearly 20 books featuring original graphic work by Miró.

"The corpus of illustrated books by Miró in the Aramont Library allow us to explore how the artist engaged experimental printmaking throughout his career," Stillo said. The newly purchased scroll stands out as a "landmark in Miro's notorious experimentation with different forms of visual storytelling."

"The end-of-fiscal-year purchases provide opportunities to add so many wonderful new acquisitions that the Library may not have been able to acquire through its annually allocated collection budget," Dale said. "These unique and wonderful additions were made possible by a large, dedicated team of librarians and staff from across many divisions. I'm grateful for the substantial amount of work they do – often in a very short time frame – to ensure wonderful acquisitions while also spending down our appropriated funds with great precision." ■

HCD SERVICES PORTAL

During this period of remote work, the [Human Capital Directorate \(HCD\) services portal](#) is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.